Assured Grounding Program

Instructor Note: Washington's Occupational Safety and Health (WISHA) strictly enforces the standards pertaining to electrical grounding. These standards require that a project use either Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFI's) or an Assured Grounding Program. GFI's effectively prevent short circuits by tripping the entire circuit when a short occurs. It eliminates the possibility of electrocution and is the preferred method of protection. See WAC 296-155-447.

Introduction: Our company has an Assured Grounding program as a means to protect ourselves against accidental electrical shock.

Guide for Discussion

Program Components

Have the company written policy on file.
Our policy is located *Where*

Have a competent person conduct all tests.
Our competent person(s) are: *Who*

Test all electrical equipment for proper grounding.
Remove any defective equipment from use and tag it to prevent future use.
Color code all equipment tested to insure complete test result.

We use the following colors— (winter),
(spring),
(summer),
(fall).

A color chart is located *Where*

Tests

Test for the continuity of the grounding conductor.
Test before the equipment is first used; after any repair; after any possible damage and a minimum quarterly (i.e., every three months).

Inspections

Visually daily for defects before use.
Inspect the following types of equipment:
Power Tools, Extension Cords and Temporary Receptacle Boxes

Additional Discussion Notes:
Three prong grounding testers to check extension cord continuity are located *Where*

Remember: The use of an Assured Grounding Program is not only required, but it is good common sense. Electrocution is no laughing matter and all steps we can take to reduce our exposure to this hazard makes sense.

Attendee's:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.